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JJS**UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Examiner: Unknown Art Unit: Unknown
 Re: Application of: van de Berg, Jan, et al.
 Serial No.: to be assigned
 Filed: herewith
 For: **A SYSTEM FOR DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF MOISTURE**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
 for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

March 9, 2001

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Sir:

Prior to the examination, the Applicants submit the following claims:

1. A system (1) for detecting the presence of moisture, comprising at least one electronic sensor (2.i) for detecting the presence of moisture and at least one reading device (4.1) for obtaining information from the at least one sensor about the presence of moisture, wherein the at least one sensor (2.i) comprises a resonant circuit (6) which is at least partly formed from a moisture sensitive material (8), the electrical resistance of which changes when the material (8) comes into contact with moisture, the reading device (4.1) comprises means (14) for generating an electromagnetic interrogation field comprising at least one frequency component corresponding to a resonance frequency of the resonant circuit (6) and for recording the response of the at least one sensor (2.i) to the electromagnetic interrogation field to obtain information about the presence of moisture at the at least one sensor, characterized in that, the electrical resistance of the material (18) increases when the material comes into contact with moisture and the reading device (4.1) comprising transmitter-receiver means (14) for wirelessly generating the electromagnetic interrogation field and for wirelessly recording the response of the at least one sensor (2.i) to the electromagnetic interrogation field to obtain the information about the presence of moisture at the at least one sensor (2.i) if the at least one sensor (2.i) is wirelessly brought into the electromagnetic interrogation field.

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Any 26/10/01